Spring 2015 Issue

Letter from the Director
KAT Over 5 Years
2014-15 VAC Membership Donation Drive
KAT Ridership FY15-Q3
“KAT: 5 Years & Counting” Sponsors
“KAT: 5 Years & Counting” Auction Donors
KAT Aurora Schedule
WCC Schedule SP 2015
Record Public Transit Ridership in 2014
Why We Ride: 7 Reasons to Ride Transit
“KAT: 5 Years & Counting” Event Recap
Federal Gov’t Seeks Conversation on Transit
Oswego to End Park-n-Ride June 30
2014-2015 VAC Membership Contributions
TRANSITions
Staff Spotlight
KAT Travel Training

Missed the Last Issue?
Missed the last issue of the KAT Chronicle? Visit the County website to stay up to date on all the latest KAT news!

Inside this issue:

KAT Calendar of Events

Thursday April 9th National Transportation Infrastructure Day. A day to let our representatives know how important transit infrastructure, like buses and bus facilities, is to our community.

Saturday April 11th VAC Staff will have a KAT booth at the 2015 Oswego Chamber EXPO at the Oswego HS from 9am-2pm.

Wednesday May 20th VAC Staff will have a KAT booth at the 6th Annual Hometown Senior Fair at Sandwich Fair Grounds from 11am-2pm.

Monday May 25th In observance of Memorial Day, all KAT offices and operations will be closed.

Friday July 3rd In observance of Independence Day, all KAT offices and operations will be closed.

Keep up to date on all other KAT events by “liking” the KAT Facebook page!

facebook.com/

Transit Speak

Bus Operator is the official job title of your KAT “driver.” The title of Operator is preferred because the job entails so much more than simply driving a vehicle! Operating a vehicle can be complex, fast paced, and hectic. The operator has to be an expert problem solver, work well under pressure, and understand that schedules may require revision to meet changing customer demands, especially when dial-a-ride services are offered. A bus operator’s two main roles are (1) driving a paratransit vehicle in a safe and efficient manner and (2) providing passenger assistance as directed which will enable clients to manage the activities of daily living while enabling them to remain independent in the community. VAC takes great pride in finding reliable, friendly, courteous, and community minded individuals to assist KAT passengers live a more independent life!
Letter from the Director

Jesse Hafenrichter, a True Champion for Public Transportation

~ Paul LaLonde, Assistant Director, VAC

I originally sat down to write the “Letter from the Director” as an introspective look back at KAT over the past five years when I received the sad news that former Kendall County Board member Jesse Hafenrichter passed away at the age of 87. Community and public transportation was always one of her passions. She fought hard to bring KAT to the County because she saw the need and knew transit would benefit residents tremendously.

KAT first became operational on March 22, 2010. We held a modest ribbon cutting at the Historic Courthouse, and local dignitaries were invited to attend. Jesse was one of those dignitaries, and she was one of the first official riders who got to ride on the new KAT buses. I sat with her on that bus trip as we toured the area. As we passed the Beecher Center, she turned to me and said, “I know a lot of trips will be made there! Get to know it!”

After the ribbon cutting ceremony, KAT buses officially hit the road. One of our first trips was to the Beecher Center. Jesse knew her community well.

It’s crazy to think that the five year old KAT program is the first public transportation system in Kendall County’s over 167 year history. Jesse knew the social benefits of public transit programs, and why it was so important to the constituents she served:

- Transit helps break the barrier of isolation by promoting social interaction,
- It raises the standard of living, making possible improved housing, clothing, food, and recreation, and
- It promotes economic development and growth by linking the County with the greater regional area and providing access to jobs.

Since KAT became operational, the program has provided over 110,000 trips, including:

- Over 32,000 trips to seniors
- Over 31,500 trips to persons with disabilities
- Over 57,000 employment trips
- Over 30,500 medical trips
- Over 7,000 trips for essential shopping and nutritional purposes
- Over 6,000 educational trips

And the need for KAT continues to grow. The day after the KAT ribbon cutting ceremony, seven KAT trips were provided. That was a Tuesday. This past Tuesday over 160 KAT trips were provided.

Towards the end of Jesse’s tenure on the County Board, she was interviewed by WSPY radio. The interviewer asked what she considered to be one of her most important achievements. Without hesitation she said KAT. Bringing public transportation to Kendall County community was one of her deepest passions.

Having been with KAT since day one and seeing it grow and evolve the way it has, I hope that we’ve lived up to Jesse’s expectations. At the very least, she may well take solace in the fact that we do indeed go to the Beecher Center all the time and we have gotten to “know it well.” Thank you, Jesse, and God speed.
**KAT Over the Past Five Years**

**KAT Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: March 22, 2010** - Historic Courthouse in Yorkville. From left to right: Paul LaLonde, KAT Director; Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator; Tom Zucker, VAC Executive Director; Valerie Burd, Yorkville mayor; John Purcell, Kendall County Board; Bob Hausler, Plano mayor.

**KAT Wins First Award: Oct. 6, 2010** - Less than a year old, KAT was honored in Springfield by winning the Governor’s Award for Unique Achievement. From left to right: Michael Gelder, Governor Liaison; Bette Schoenholtz, Executive Director of Senior Service Assoc.; Paul LaLonde, KAT Director; Jessie Hafenrichter, Kendall County Board; Jeff Wilkins, County Administrator; Charles Johnson, Dir. Of Area Agency on Aging; Anne Vickery, Kendall Board.

**KAT 10,000th Rider: Aug. 3, 2011** - From left to right: Pamela Leonard, KAT Driver; John Shaw, Kendall County Board; John Purcell, Kendall County Board; Joan Bernhjelm, 10,000th rider; Jesse Hafenrichter, Kendall County Board; Suzanne Petrella, Kendall County Board; Jeff Wilkins, Kendall County Administrator; Dan Koukol, Kendall County Board.

**Community Resource Fair: March 17, 2012** - Held yearly at Oswego High School by the Kendall County Education Cooperative, the Community Resource Fair is an excellent place to showcase resources for the community’s disabled community. Above is Diannaha Thompson, KAT Operations Manager.

(Continued on page 13)
VAC’s 2014-2015 Membership Drive Underway

The Voluntary Action Center’s 2014-2015 Membership Drive is wrapping up! This is our largest fundraiser of the year, and we need help to assure that there is a stable source of funding for the important transportation services VAC provides in Kendall County.

The need for KAT continues to grow. Your generosity will enable us to meet the growing need for rides to and from medical appointments, employment, grocery stores, and meal sites.

Your membership contribution will help!

- You help provide vital services in the community,
- For every $100 donated, we can provide 6 rides to people in need,
- You will partner with VAC to improve the quality of life in Kendall County communities,
- All donations stay in the community to support local services,
- And you will help VAC counter the impact of unstable fuel costs.

May we count on you to help provide transportation to our neighbors, friends, and family in need? A heartfelt thank you for your help!

Sincerely,

Tom Zucker, Executive Director

The 2013-2014 VAC Membership Drive helped raise $4,000 for the KAT program. Please help us reach our goal of $4,500 for 2014-2015.

VAC Donation Gift Form

Yes, I would like to donate to the Voluntary Action Center and help support the KAT program!

[ ] Individual / Family Gift [ ] Corporate Gift

Name/Business:___________________________________
Address:_________________________________________
City:_____________________________ Zip____________
Phone:___________________________________________
Email____________________________________________

[ ] $25 Gift  [ ] $50 Gift
[ ] $75 Gift  [ ] $100 Gift

Any amount will be greatly appreciated!

Please mail Donation Gift to:
Voluntary Action Center
Kendall Area Transit
109 W. Ridge Street Room 002
Yorkville, IL 60560

VAT Ridership - Fiscal Year 2015, Third Quarter

Fiscal Year 2015 began on July 1st. KAT fiscal years last from July to June, and KAT operates four 3-month quarters per fiscal year. Quarter 3 is January-February-March. In the third quarter for FY2015, KAT provided 6,764 paratransit trips and 1,965 park and ride trips, totaling 8,729 trips this quarter. Daily ridership averaged over 112 paratransit trips a day and 34 park-n-ride trips a day, for an average of 146 trips system wide.

<table>
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<th>Jan 2015</th>
<th>Feb 2015</th>
<th>March 2015</th>
<th>FY15-Q3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARATRANSIT</td>
<td>2,047</td>
<td>2,213</td>
<td>2,504</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARK AND RIDE</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>677</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL RIDES</td>
<td>2,726</td>
<td>2,822</td>
<td>3,181</td>
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THANK YOU
The “KAT: 5 Years & Counting” anniversary fundraiser was a huge success, especially due to, among other things, the generous contributions from our event sponsors. Without the contributions from these generous community partners, the event wouldn’t have been possible. Their support helps the Voluntary Action Center in providing community transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other community members throughout Kendall County.

**Event Sponsors**

**Record Newspapers**

**Reception Sponsors**

**Ride Sponsors**
Thank you to all the businesses and agencies that donated items for the silent auction baskets to the “KAT: 5 Years & Counting” anniversary fundraiser! We raised over $-amount due to the generous contributions from these businesses and agencies. Their support helps the Voluntary Action Center in providing community transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other community members throughout Kendall County.
KAT Aurora Schedule

EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015

To better accommodate the high demand for ridership to the Aurora area, Kendall Area Transit will be implementing the following schedules for the “Galena Road / downtown” area and the “Indian Trail / Mercy campus” area of Aurora. KAT is a dial-a-ride service. All rides must be scheduled in advance and are based on vehicle space and availability. This schedule is for trips to the downtown and north Aurora area only. For the time being, trips to and from the Rush Copley Campus on Route 34 will remain scheduled on first come first serve basis. More transit information can be found on the KAT website at www.co.kendall.il.us or by calling (630) 882-6970.

Aurora Schedule
(times are approximate and subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Galena Route</th>
<th>Indian Trail Route</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drop-offs</td>
<td>Drop-offs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drop-offs/Pickups</td>
<td>Drop-offs/Pickups</td>
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<td>Drop-offs/Pickups</td>
<td>Drop-offs/Pickups</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

W.C.C. -- Sugar Grove Campus Dial-a-ride Service

KAT is a community and public transportation dial-a-ride service that is available to all Kendall County residents. All riders must be registered to use the service. All rides must be scheduled in advance and times are based on availability. For information regarding registration, scheduling rides, and fares please call the KAT Office at (877) IGO-4KAT, (877) 446-4528.

- Daily One-way Fare: $5.00
- 10-Ride Pass: $35.00 ($50 value)

10-Ride Passes Available for $35: Purchase at Waubonsee C.C. Bookstore, Kendall Area Transit office, or your friendly bus driver.

Daily Fare: Purchase on the bus at time of the trip. Exact Fare Required. No change will be issued.

The schedules, fares, and other information listed are subject to change.

Pick up and drop off locations at Sugar Grove Campus are at the Student Center & Science Building. Drop-offs and pickups at all other campuses will be at the respective Main Entrances. Campus & location must be given at time of reservation.

Arrives at Sugar Grove Campus:
8:50 A.M. / 1:00 P.M. / 5:00 P.M.*

All service, including to Plano, Rush Copley, & Downtown Campuses, based on availability.

*There is no Sugar Grove Campus 5:00 P.M. pickup on Fridays.
The Highest Transit Ridership in 58 Years

Americans took 10.8 billion trips on public transportation in 2014, which is the highest annual public transit ridership number in 58 years, according to a report released today by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

“In 2014, people took a record 10.8 billion trips on public transportation -- the highest annual ridership number in 58 years,” said Phillip Washington, APTA Chair and CEO & General Manager of the Regional Transportation District in Denver. “Some public transit systems experienced all-time record high ridership last year. This record ridership didn’t just happen in large cities. It also happened in small and medium size communities.”

Some of the public transit agencies reporting record ridership system-wide were located in the following cities: Albany, NY; Boston, MA; Canton, OH; Columbus, OH; Denver, CO; Indianapolis, IN; Madison, WI; Minneapolis, MN; Olympia, WA; Orlando, FL; St. Petersburg, FL; Riverside, CA; Salt Lake City, UT; San Francisco, CA; Seattle, WA; Spokane, WA; Tampa, FL; and Wenatchee, WA.

Noting that public transit ridership increased even when gas prices declined by 42.9 cents in the fourth quarter, APTA President and CEO Michael Melaniphy said, “Despite the steep decline in gas prices at the end of last year, public transit ridership increased. This shows that once people start riding public transit, they discover that there are additional benefits besides saving money.”

“People are changing their travel behavior and want more travel options,” said Melaniphy. “In the past people had a binary choice. You either took public transit, most likely a bus, or you drove a car. Now there are multiple options with subways, light rail, streetcars, commuter trains, buses, ferries, cars and shared use vehicles.”

Another reason behind the ridership increases is the economic recovery in certain areas. For example, Atlanta (GA), San Francisco (CA), Minneapolis (MN), Seattle (WA), and Champaign-Urbana (IL) were some cities that saw increased ridership in part because of an improved job market.

“Since nearly 60 percent of the trips taken on public transportation are for work commutes, public transportation ridership increases are seen in areas where the local economy is growing,” said Melaniphy.

“Expanded and improved public transit services also played a role in attracting more riders,” said Melaniphy. “For example, the transit agencies in Albany (NY), Denver (CO), Indianapolis (IN), Riverside (CA), and Salt Lake City (UT) saw increased ridership due to greater service.”

Continued on page 16
Why We Ride: 7 Reasons Transit is the Way to Go

Savvy commuters already know that transit is the smart and inexpensive way to get around, but in case you need a little more motivation to leave your car at home, here are 7 reasons why transit is the best way to go:

#7 – It’s safer.
According to National Safety Council data, riding the bus is 170 times safer than riding in a car. And an Allstate Insurance study found that Portland is one of the least safe driving cities in the U.S.!

#6 – You have options.
Whether or not driving is an option for you, TriMet provides the freedom to go where you want, when you want.

Fact: Each year, 11 million rides on TriMet are taken by seniors and people with disabilities. And TriMet’s LIFT para-transit service provides over 1 million rides per year.

#5 – Less stress.
When you let a professional do the driving, you don’t have to deal with traffic or worry about navigating or finding a parking spot.

Fact: According to Texas A&M’s annual mobility study, the average Portland-area commuter spends 44 hours a year stuck in traffic!

#4 – More “me” time.
Instead of driving you can read a book, surf the web, text friends, get some work done, take a nap or just relax and enjoy the scenery.

Fact: Several research studies have shown that using your commute time to enjoy simple activities can make you feel happier and more relaxed.

#3 – It’s healthier.
Taking TriMet helps us get more exercise because of the walking and biking we do going to and from our stops—it’s active transportation. Besides, it’s a great opportunity to get out in our community, meet neighbors and discover new things.

Fact: A study in North Carolina showed that light rail passengers were 81% less likely to become obese over time and would lose an average of 7 pounds over a one-year period.

#2 – It’s actually pretty fun.
Transit is great for getting to and from work but it’s also a popular way to get to school, shops, concerts, libraries, and picnics in the park. Get out and explore your city!

Fact: 1 in 4 transit trips is for shopping and recreation.

#1 – You save big on gas, parking and car payments.
Obviously, when you ride TriMet you don’t have to pay for parking or gas. And if you go completely car-free, it could also mean no loans, insurance or tune-up costs.

Fact: According to the American Public Transportation Association, transit riders in Portland can save up to $993 a month ($11,914 a year).

These are some of the most common sentiments about the value of taking transit, but we all ride for different reasons. How about you—What is your inspiration for catching a bus or boarding the train?

This article was originally published in How We Roll, the blog for TriMet, Portland, Oregon’s public transit authority, on February 6, 2015. It is authored by Brian Lum.
KAT: Five Years and Counting Fundraiser Recap

March 18, 2015 -- The Voluntary Action Center held the “KAT: 5 Years & Counting” fundraiser to support and bring awareness to Kendall County’s community and public transportation program.

The evening was a celebration of KAT’s growth and success in providing transportation services to Kendall County residents, especially senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. Paul LaLonde, VAC Assistant Director and KAT Program Director, emphasized that “our mission is one of offering a freedom and peace of mind to those who otherwise may not have a ride to the doctor, work, or grocery store.”

KAT began in March 2010, and has provided over 110,000 trips since that time. “Our first week of operation, we averaged 14 riders a day. Recently, we’re averaging over 150 a day. This tremendous growth is a testament to our community’s need for these types of services,” LaLonde stated.

Tom Zucker, Executive Director of VAC, emphasize that “it’s important to remember that KAT is an avenue for seniors, persons with disabled, and other residents without vehicle access to live an independent lifestyle. KAT helps people remain active members of the community.”

All proceeds from “KAT: 5 Years & Counting” will be used to help VAC provide community transportation through the KAT program. Every $100 raised will help provide six (6) rides to community members in need – these are trips to dialysis, employment, higher education, food banks and grocery stores, and so much more. All donations stay in the community to support local services and will help improve the quality of life for people’s neighbors, friends, and family members.

Thank You Donors!
Thank you to ALL those who individually gave to ensure that the “5 Years & Counting” fundraiser was a success! We’d specially like to thank the following:

Rebecca Christiansen, the Wagner Family, Micki Miller, Michael and Karen Hardecopf, Judy Gilmour, Jerry Maring, Sandy Pastore, John Wu, Brad Gibbs, Dennis DeMasie, Bette Schoenholtz, Sara Iobbi, Diannaha Thompson, Christin LaLonde, Scott Gryder, and Jeff Wilkins.
WASHINGTON (AP) — Hoping to start a national conversation about future transportation needs, the Obama administration released a report Monday that identifies key population, environmental, cultural and technology trends expected to shape the way Americans get from one place to another over the next 30 years.

By then the U.S. population will grow by 70 million, the equivalent of adding another Texas, Florida and New York. Much of this increase will be in cities in the South and West. At the same time, the number of Americans over age 65 will increase 77 percent, and one-third of seniors will have a disability that limits their mobility.

At the same time, the nation's 73 million millennials, the first generation to grow up with the Internet, will become an important economic engine. So far, they are driving less than their Generation X predecessors and many are gravitating to cities where they can bike, walk and take public transit to work or school.

Significant increases in freight shipments are forecast across all modes of transportation — highway, rail, maritime ship and aviation. Already, a 50 percent increase in crude oil production since 2008 is straining the capacity of America's freight railroads.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx sat down to discuss the trends with Google Chairman Eric Schmidt in San Francisco, the hub of the nation's technology sector. Google has been at the forefront of developing technologies that are expected in the next decade to lead to fully automated cars that can be programmed to drive themselves.

"If we don't get ahead of those challenges we're going to find ourselves stuck in traffic for a long time," Foxx said.

The report is not a blueprint for future action, but rather raises questions:

- How will the U.S. build a transportation system that doesn't just let a growing population travel, but lets them travel more safely?

- How will it reduce freight chokepoints that drive up the cost to business?

- How can infrastructure be made resilient enough to weather events like Hurricane Sandy that occur with increasing frequency?

- How can barriers be cleared for new technologies that can make transportation safer and more convenient?

If there are no changes in capacity to the national highway system, recurring peak congestion is expected to increase from 11 percent of the system in 2007 to 37 percent in 2040. That will slow traffic on 21,000 miles of highways and create stop-and-go conditions on another 40,000 miles, the report said.

(Continued on page 12)
The report's release comes as Congress is struggling once again to find the money to keep federal transportation aid flowing to states. The federal Highway Trust Fund, which pays for highway and transit aid, has been teetering on the edge of bankruptcy since 2008. Revenue from the federal 18.4 cents-a-gallon gasoline and 24.4 cents-a-gallon diesel taxes are running more than $15 billion a year short of needed highway and transit aid to states.

Congress has kept money flowing through a series of stopgap measures. If nothing is done by May 31, the government will have to slow down payments to states. The uncertainty over whether federal aid can be counted upon has already caused some states to delay transportation projects.

Three blue-ribbon commissions have recommended raising federal fuel taxes, and some lawmakers are backing proposals to do that. But raising fuel taxes is unpopular with the public, and many Republican lawmakers have pledged not to raise taxes.

President Barack Obama has proposed a 31 percent boost in transportation spending. Obama wants to spend $478 billion on transportation and infrastructure over the next six years, including a 75 percent increase for mass transit. Half of that money would come from current taxes on fuels and other transportation fees. Another $238 billion would come from a one-time surge of revenue created by applying a 14 percent tax on profits that U.S. corporations have parked overseas.

This article is an AP piece that ran on Yahoo News on February 3, 2015. It is authored by Joan Lowy.

### Oswego Decides to End Park-n-Ride, Dial-a-Ride will Continue


With a small number of riders in recent years, the village of Oswego has decided to end its Park-n-Ride transportation service for Metra riders this summer.

The Oswego Park-n-Ride has operated weekday rush hour bus service between two locations and the Aurora Transportation Center for the Metra Burlington Northern Santa Fe line.

The village has decided to cease the subsidized commuter transportation service when a three-year contract with the Kendall Area Transit agency expires June 30.

Village trustees during their recent 2016 budget discussions weighed data for bus ridership with the cost to taxpayers for having to subsidize 100 percent of the transportation program.

“While we have supported the development of public transportation infrastructure to serve the community until the arrival of Metra, sustainable bus ridership has proven to be elusive,” Village Administrator Steve Jones said in a report to trustees.

Jones said ridership peaked in 2008 but has since eroded.

(This is an excerpt from an Aurora Beacon article. To read whole piece, please click link).
KAT Over the Past Five Years (continued from page 3)

**State Rep. Visits KAT: Jan. 20, 2015** - 75th District Representative John D. Anthony, a public transit supporter, visits VAC offices to see first hand how his support for public transit benefits the community.

**Oswegoland Park District PrairieFest Parade: June 17, 2012** - From left to right: Pamela Leonard, KAT Driver; John Shaw, Kendall County Board; John Purcell, Kendall County Board; Joan Bernhjelm, 10,000th rider; Jesse Hafenrichter, Kendall County Board; Suzanne Petrella, Kendall County Board; Jeff Wilkins, Kendall County Administrator; Dan Koukol, Kendall County Board.


**Rush Copley Play It Safe Fair: Sept. 21, 2013** - Val Nickerson, Assistant Operations Manager of KAT, demonstrates how to safely use the lift at Rush Copley Healthplex. All KAT vehicles are ADA accessible, and offer a sense of accessibility and independence to those requiring a little extra help!
2014-2015 Membership Contributions

Voluntary Action Center is a non-profit community transportation provider, who, in part, relies on the generosity of the community to do what we do best, provide rides to those who otherwise may not have one. As such, we feel compelled to give recognition to individuals, companies, or agencies that have given generously to the VAC mission, which is commitment to providing high quality services that address the basic transportation needs of the community. Thank you to our friends and supporters throughout the greater Kendall County area!

**INDIVIDUAL GIFTS**

William and Jo Anne Behrens
Kathleen Cupples
Wendy and Terry Dearborn
John Ermel
Diane Evans
Mary Faulhaber
Margie Ann Fuller
Michael and Karen Hardecopf
Martha Hettinger
William Holstine
Richard and Lori Jansen
Steve and Mary Kapernekas
Marilyn Langhart
Gordon Lehnert
Lucille Maly
Blanca Mustafa
Jayantilal Patel
Phil and Cynthia Ruff
Janet Schor
Janet Scott
Kathleen Snow
Howard and Debra Springborn
Thomas and Margaret Wagner
Eleanor Wenckus
Robert and Mary Wolfe

**ORGANIZATIONAL GIFTS**

Rush-Copley Medical Center
Blackstone Bar & Grill
Allsteel Credit Union
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
TRANSITions Part 1

“TRANSITions” highlights staff members who have recently been hired or changed positions.

KAT’s Happy Anniversaries!

Paul LaLonde
KAT Director - 5 years, Jan. 2010

Diannah Thompson
Operations Mgr. - 5 years, Feb. 2010

Bill Schaeffer
Bus Operator - 5 years, March 2010

Pamela Leonard
Bus Operator - 5 years, March 2010

Charlie Sondgeroth
Bus Operator - 5 years, March 2010

KAT’s Happy Anniversaries!

Richard Aubrey
Bus Operator - 4 years, February 2011

Ted Shick
Bus Operator - 4 years, March 2011

Karen Stone
Bus Operator - 4 years, March 2011

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Name: Paul LaLonde    Joined VAC/KAT: January 2010

Position: Assistant Director, VAC

Before KAT: I worked for the City of DeKalb in the Community Development Department as a Transportation Planning Intern while I finished the MPA program at NIU.

Favorite Part of the Job: Being an advocate for community transportation. I enjoy speaking to groups and individuals and showcasing the importance and need for such programs. Also, I enjoy working with staff, gaining and giving feedback, and working to make the program better.

Most Rewarding Experience Thus Far: Being part of KAT since the beginning and overseeing its evolution. It’s a unique experience being a part of a program from Day 1. Most of the time, directors step into well established programs. I’ve gotten to leave my mark immediately.

Hobbies: 11x World Champion St. Louis Cardinals baseball, heavy metal music, traveling and visiting new places, comic books, and drawing.

“Becoming a part of and getting to know the Kendall County community has been one of my favorite parts of the job. So many wonderful people.”
Record 10.8 Billion Trips Taken On U.S. Public Transportation In 2014

(Continued from page 8)

From 1995-2014 public transit ridership increased by 39 percent, almost double the population growth, which was up 21 percent. The estimated growth of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was 25 percent. (It is estimated because the December VMT has not yet been posted by the Federal Highway Administration.)

Pointing out that the current federal surface transportation bill expires on May 31, Melaniphy said, “The record ridership in 2014 is a clear message to Congress that the citizens of this country want expanded public transit services. Congress needs to work together now to pass a long-term, well-funded surface transportation bill that invests in our country’s public transit infrastructure. This is critical not only to the millions of Americans who use public transportation, but is also crucial for our country’s economic competitiveness.”

2014 Ridership Breakdown
Bus ridership decreased nationally by 1.1 percent. However, in small and medium size population groups, bus ridership saw percentage increases of 2.0 and 0.5 respectively. The following cities showed the highest large bus ridership increases in 2014: Baltimore, MD (6.8%); Portland, OR (5.3%); Oakland, CA (4.2%); San Francisco, CA (3.9%); Columbus, OH (3.0%); Atlanta, GA (2.8%); San Diego, CA (2.4%); and Seattle, WA-King County DOT (2.0%).

Demand response (paratransit) ridership increased in 2014 by 0.2 percent. Trolleybus ridership declined by 2.8 percent in 2014.

To see the complete APTA 2014 ridership report, go to: http://www.apta.com/resources/statistics/Documents/Ridership/2014-q4-ridership-APTA.pdf

This Press Release originally appeared on the APTA website on March 9, 2015.

Happy Five Year Anniversary

Happy five years to Diannaha, Bill, Pamela, and Charlie!
“TRANSITions” highlights staff members who have recently been hired or changed positions.

**Sharon Swander, Bus Operator**
Sharon joins VAC as a KAT operator in March. She has driven for many different transportation agencies and enjoys working with passengers and helping them get to places they need to go. She was also in the food industry so knows a thing or two about quality customer service!

**Ruben Pena, Bus Operator**
Ruben joins VAC having recently retired from Anchor Break and Shoe where he was a lap tech for almost 30 years. He is excited about staying busy in the community, and he figured the best way to do that was to assist other community members with their transportation needs.

**Assistant Director Welcomes First Born Son**
VAC staff wishes congrats to Paul LaLonde’s on the birth of his son! Ewan David was born on April 2nd at Morris Hospital. He was 7 lbs. 4 oz. He is the first child of Paul and his wife Christin. They are excited for the future, which includes many sleepless nights but many more hugs and kisses!
KAT Travel Training Program

What is Travel Training?
Travel training is a self-paced process that teaches KAT riders how to safely and independently use the public bus. Travel destinations are the trainee’s choice and can include: work, school, medical appointments, and recreation sites.

Who Should Participate?
Any rider in need of assistance and those who wish to become more independent. Your residence and destination should be in the KAT designated service area.

Costs:
Travel training is provided free-of-charge except for your bus fare while training is taking place.

Training Process:
A mobility instructor will travel with you to your desired destination at times of your convenience. The instructor will stay with you, teaching you KAT procedures, skills, and techniques for safe travel. Training is conducted in a series of steps from initial one-on-one instruction to the gradual fading of trainer assistance leading to independent travel. A trainer will stay with you until you feel comfortable and confident riding the bus.

Benefits of Travel Training:
- Enhances freedom, mobility and independence.
- Provides access to safe and low-cost transportation.
- Increases self-confidence.
- Promotes healthy living by helping you stay active in the community.

KAT Travel Trainers Can Teach You:
- How to plan your trip
- How to get to and from your bus
- How to recognize bus numbers, bus stops, and landmarks
- How to pay fares and purchase tickets and passes
- How to board with a mobility device
- Where to position your mobility device on the bus
- How to prepare for the unexpected
- How to read and understand route maps and schedules

Don’t wait. Your road to independence can start today!
1. Call KAT at (630) 882-6970 to learn more about our Travel Training Program.
2. Schedule an appointment with our Travel Trainer for a travel needs assessment.